

The brewery strike is over and a serious drought averted.

Walter Wellman is going to make a try this summer for the north pole via balloon route. The hardships of former polar explorers will therefore be airy nothings to Mr. Wellman.

The ship and trust gets all the money it wants from congress for waterway improvement. Why don't the people wake up and organize a trust of their own to secure federal aid in improving public highways?

The Democrats won in the St. Louis election last week, but whether their success was due to the weakness of the Republican ticket or the fact that the Democratic ticket had more saloon-keepers on it is undetermined.

The "vested interests," other wise known as the trusts, are after "that man Roosevelt," and hope to supplant him with a Democrat who will be a little more complacent towards the efforts of the trusts to steal the country.

Major Harvey W. Salmon of Clinton, Mo., has been convicted of bank wrecking and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. The "Old Guard" of the Missouri Democracy has fallen into devious and dismal ways indeed when such things may happen to its most prominent figures.

It is a terrible thing to our Democratic friends that the Republicans had received financial aid in their last national campaign from corporations, but the former are already jubilating over the thought that it is the Democratic party that is going to handle the trust campaign contributions at the next election.

It seems the legislature has been so liberal, not to say profligate, in its appropriations that the state treasury will have a deficit of over a million dollars in the next two years. In view of this fact, we should hear less carping criticism from our Democratic friends on the awful extravagance of the last session of congress.

Harriman's statement that when he wants legislation he can buy legislatures, congress and the judiciary, is one which stamps the character of the man who uttered it. It is on par with his illegal acts as a manipulator of railroads, and manifests the low estimate the commercial spirit of the times puts upon the integrity of American citizenship. If such conditions prevail in the country, how much longer can we say that we are a people of free institutions, that the people rule for the good of the people?

By the time we get roads upon which to use them the automobile will have been so perfected and the cost so reduced that they will undoubtedly come into common use and will take the place of horse drawn vehicles. The farmer will use them in his plowing and reaping where he now uses horses. The manufacturers will develop the machine, but it falls upon the people to supply the roads upon which to use them. With good roads, and reliable motor vehicles at reasonable cost, the public would be less at the mercy of the railroads.

The railroads, it seems, are making preparations to fight the enforcement of the two cent passenger rate law in the courts. This was to be expected. The railroads, from past experience in this kind of litigation, have abundant reason to believe that they can whittle the matter about in the courts for an indefinite number of years. The expense to the roads will be nothing more than the court costs and the people will continue to pay the three-cent rate until a final decision is reached. In other words, notwithstanding a law has been made, the custom has become such that there is no relief to come from it to the public until it is really a law or not.

### Trying to Squeeze Out a Year.

Most railroad presidents feel it duty bound to look quite gloomy nowadays. But it is a hard job for them.

President Truesdale, of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, in his annual report speaks very soberly about "the universal and pronounced hostility to railroads," and points to that "startling" fact that the taxes of his road were increased by \$572,915 last year.

Turning from these grave utterances to the fiscal statement, we find that Lackawanna's net earnings for the year amounted to forty-three per cent. on its capital stock. It paid cash dividends of twenty per cent., devoting the remainder to special improvements and surplus. In view of which, we judge that stockholders will be able to survive the shock of increased taxes.

President Smith, of the Louisville and Nashville, deprecates that agitation and legislation are deterring investors from advancing capital to the roads. No doubt he remembers the comparatively recent transaction whereby thirty millions of the stock of his road was converted into fifty millions of collateral trust bonds, etc., and in that inflated form passed on to the investor.

No litigation deters the investor, but he hasn't any loose money—partly because he has of late put so many hundred millions into inflated railroad capitalization, in the form of collateral trust bonds, etc., issued by one road to acquire control of another. When the investor is in funds again the consolidating and inflating may be vigorously resumed, to the vast satisfaction and profit of the gentlemen engaged in it.

President Baer, of the Reading, protests rather calamitously against reduction of passenger fares in Pennsylvania, yet cannot really fear that such reduction will interfere with payment of the regular dividends on Reading common, which is all water, and which now sells at about one hundred and five dollars against thirty eight dollars only three years ago.

Under such conditions it is hard to be really gloomy. There may be tears in the text, but the figures smile brightly through them. Saturday Evening Post.

### Old-Time Railroad.

A writer in the Macon Times, telling of the Hannibal and St. Joe railroad fifty years ago, says: "We used the old forty or fifty pound rail with a poorly constructed road bed of mostly yellow clay that with any rain became like a bog wallow, into which the crosses and track would often be hurled out of sight. It was no unusual sight to see the track for hundreds of feet in the cuts buried in the clay and slush from two to six feet in depth, and the locomotive would, in passing through this mire, become thoroughly coated all over."

### Young People Must Learn to Think.

The young people of to-day, as compared with those of fifty years ago are chiefly deficient in power of sustained attention and reasoning. They cannot, or at least they usually do not, think as clearly, as patiently, or as cogently as did their fathers. They do not quickly distinguish the irrelevant from the pertinent, the germ from the husk, as the men of the last generation. They have an amazing fund of information; they are wide readers of light ephemeral literature; they have tasted every fruit on the great tree of knowledge; they know a thousand interesting scraps; they are more versatile and ingenious and attractive than any other of the recent generations. But they are quickly led astray by sophistry, and easily led to surrender conviction when it conflicts with interest. President W. H. P. Fisher, of Brown University, in *Leslie's Weekly*.

### The First Coined Money.

When metals were first used for payment they were simply weighed. The next step was to issue pieces of gold and silver that had

been weighed; and then in time it became the custom to mark the exact weight and value on each piece. This was first done in Assyria and Babylonia, where shekels or pounds of gold and silver have often been found.

The idea of coined money was first conceived by the Greeks of Ionia in the seventh century B. C. These people stamped on each coin their own arms and seal, thus giving the guaranty of their State for the correct weight and value of the coins. The custom spread rapidly among all the Greek provinces and into Italy.

The oldest gold coins are the yellow shekels of Babylonia. These were stamped only with the arms of the country, which thus made itself responsible for their proper weight. Nearly all of the more modern coins derive their weight from the scale of value established by the old shekels of Babylonia.

### What Makes the Sky Blue.

It is the atmosphere that makes the sky look blue and the moon yellow. If we could ascend to an elevation of fifty miles above the earth's surface, we should see that the moon is a brilliant white, while the sky would be black, with the stars shining as brightly in daytime as at night. Furthermore, as a most picturesque feature of the spectacle, we should take notice that some of the stars are red, others blue, yet others violet, and still others green in color. Of course, all of the stars (if we bar the planets of our own system), are burning suns, and the hues they wear depend upon their temperature. The hottest stars are blue. Thus Vega, in the constellation Lyra, is a blue sun, hundreds of times as large as our own solar orb. We are journeying in its direction at the rate of millions of miles a day, and at some future time it may globe us all up. For, after all, humiliating though the confession be, our sun is only a very small star—of the sixth magnitude, or thereabout—and of an importance in the universe so slight as to be scarcely within the pale of respectability. Renee Bache, in *The Reader*.

### Modern Fighting.

The coming Hague Peace Conference should find satisfaction in the fact that (barring the Macedonian country) not a single shot has been fired in war for thirty-five years on the Continent of Europe. War has become, on its modern scale of great battalions, a question not of glory, but of the business of putting trained numbers into the field. France, with her forty million people, unable to furnish as many conscripts for cannon food as Germany, gives up the hope of revenge; Austria is only on the defensive; Italy is only thinking of better food and better clothes and popular education; Russia is more interested in her Duma than in the rebuilding of her navy; Germany foresees that any effort toward territorial aggrandizement would bring them all to her throat, while England builds two men of war whenever she puts one on the ways. The Continental battle of resources brings no harvest of triumphs, widows and crippled only. Taxes that might be better spent on public improvements. Practical soldiers agree that military adventure is dead. No staff in Europe would dare to make war under modern conditions unless the people had the assurance of a great economic victory. *Collier's Weekly*.

### Enormous Growth of the Portland Cement Industry.

The production of Portland cement in this country has increased in thirty-five years from thirteen million barrels to 1,000,000,000 barrels last year, and this with the prospect of an increase during next year of twenty per cent. Without being in the hands of a trust, the prices have increased in the past eighteen months from fifteen to twenty per cent. upon legitimate demand. This enormous output for 1906 would be sufficient to build a first class cement sidewalk five feet wide three and six-tenths times around the world, or build a sidewalk 156 feet wide reaching from Chicago to New York.

The uses to which this material, mixed with sand or crushed stone, is put are almost unlimited. They range from the smallest culvert to the enormous concrete arches that span our largest streams; from the humblest cottage made of concrete to the finest skyscraper and office buildings built of reinforced concrete.

To the farmer alone, Portland cement concrete presents an enormous range of possibilities. With it he makes his fence posts, drain tile, culvert pipe, well curbing, feeding floors, watering troughs, stable floors, silos, granaries, sheds, residences; in fact, he can almost make it take the place of everything heretofore made of wood. *Scientific American*.

### The Affair of the Chair.

Once there was a man who went to a friend and borrowed a chair. It was a nice chair, and the friend readily lent it, for he thought it a good deal of the man.

So the man took the chair home with him and kept it a long while. At last the friend sent word to him that he wanted the chair back.

So the man said all right, that he would bring the chair back.

And a day or so later he took the chair back to his friend.

The friend looked at him with a puzzled air and said that he wanted the chair back, whereas the man had brought the chair back.

The man said he knew it, and so he had brought the chair back, as his friend could see.

But the friend said he didn't think so much of people who could not understand a simple, everyday request, that he thought he had made it definite enough when he sent word to the man to bring the chair back.

The man grew a trifle angry at this and said to his friend that if he wanted the chair back he should have said so.

Then the friend said if the man couldn't bring the chair back he could take the chair back.

So the man took the chair back home with him.

But why should the friend want simply the chair back and not the man a stool, should he not?

Or did he want the chair back instead of the chair back?

Next time the friend should lend the man a stool, should he not?

The foolish man approached the wonderful goose that laid the golden eggs.

"Old bird," ejaculated the foolish man, "I think your time has come. Golden eggs are no longer popular. Why can't you lay gold bricks?"

"Because, mister," replied the goose, "I don't belong to the Bricklayers' Union."

And then the ax fell. *Chicago News*.

Missouri produces silver, although, perhaps, not many people know it. The ore in the Joplin district carries from one to one and three-fourths ounces per ton. Over 12,000 ounces of silver, having a face value of \$7500, was taken from Missouri mines last year. *Cape Girardeau Democrat*.

### Bids for Depository of County Funds.

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the County Court of Washington county at the May term, 1907, until noon of the first day of said term of said court, being the 26th day of May, 1907, from banks or banking corporations or associations or bankers in said county for the deposit of the funds of said county for the two years next ensuing from the date of said bid to the first Monday in May, 1909. Such proposals must state the amount that will be loaned to the county for the privilege of being made the depository of such funds, and must be accompanied by a duly certified check on some solvent bank for the amount offered in said bid, payable to the treasurer of said county, or, if preferred, the amount in currency may be delivered to the undersigned clerk of said County Court. No bid will be considered unless such certified check or the amount in currency shall accompany the same. The Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids. J. O. Lusk, Clerk County Court.

W. T. Hunter, agent German American Insurance Co. of New York. See him for fire insurance.

Foley's Honey and Tar cures the most obstinate coughs and expels the cold from the system as it is mildly laxative. It is guaranteed. The genuine is in the yellow package. City Drug Store.

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This offer is open to both new and old subscribers. If you are taking the paper at present, send in your dollar and have your time marked up for one year and get one of these beautiful pictures without any extra cost. The pictures are genuine works of art, done in fine colors. Two of them are heads of beautiful girls. One wears a black picture hat and has two roses pinned to her pink lace. If it is one's desire, order No. 1, "The Spring Girl." No. 2, or "The Summer Girl" wears a light brown picture hat, trimmed with light green. She also wears a white and green waist, with a bunch of very pretty flowers at her breast. The remaining picture, or No. 3, is a three-quarter length picture representing "The Winter Girl," with a long coat, bonnet and a bag and a muff. The frames are made of round metal and are all black. For each from each colony it would be necessary to take them from the wall for examination. The pictures and frames are neat and pretty enough to grace the walls of a millionaire's home. There is nothing cheap or shoddy about them. They cannot be duplicated in the retail stores for less than 50 cents. The best recommendation that we can give them is to say that if you are not thoroughly satisfied with your picture they will refund the money for your subscription and pay the postage for returning the picture to them.

If you are already a subscriber to the Twice-A-Week Republic, or if you want only the agricultural monthly, Farm Progress, send a silver dollar for one year's subscription to this big sixteen-page farm and home paper. The Twice-A-Week Republic is the oldest and best semi-weekly family paper in the country, and Farm Progress is the fastest growing farm monthly in America. Remember that you get both these splendid publications for a year and one of these handsome framed pictures, all for only \$1.00.

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### Surplus Products of Washington County.

Statistics gathered by the State Bureau of Labor show the following surplus products were shipped from this county during the year 1906:

Cattle, head.....	2,505
Hogs, head.....	4,042
Horses and mules, head.....	92
Goats, head.....	41
Sheep, head.....	3,720
Wheat, bushels.....	43,100
Corn, bushels.....	7,847
Clover seed, bushels.....	110
Hay, tons.....	23
Nuts, pounds.....	935
Flour, barrels.....	5,308
Corn meal, pounds.....	603
Shlupstuffs, pounds.....	213,027
Live poultry, pounds.....	125,572
Dressed poultry, pounds.....	33,031
Eggs, dozen.....	42,350
Feathers, pounds.....	278
Honey, pounds.....	27
Sorghum molasses, gallons.....	31
Hardwood lumber, feet.....	2,234,000
Soft lumber, feet.....	734,000
Lots, feet.....	5,000
Railroad ties.....	32,200
Plank, feet.....	4,803
Cordwood, cords.....	5,095
Cooperage, cars.....	106
Walnut lumber, feet.....	1,928
Cedar posts.....	128,000
Butter, pounds.....	9,244
Milk and cream, gallons.....	219
Gams, pounds.....	5,250
Furs, pounds.....	1,535
Hides and pelts, pounds.....	37,170
Dressed meats, pounds.....	799
Tallow, pounds.....	4,029
Roots and herbs, pounds.....	195
Ginseng, pounds.....	25
Vegetables, pounds.....	3,600
Potatoes, bushels.....	310
Onions, bushels.....	29
Canned vegetables and fruits, pounds.....	5,422
Fresh fruit, pounds.....	4,200
Strawberries, crates.....	24
Dried fruit, pounds.....	111
Apples, barrels.....	105
Raspberries, crates.....	4
Blackberries, crates.....	2
Peaches, baskets.....	1,950
Pears, baskets.....	317
Wool, pounds.....	4,225
Lean, tons.....	1,455
Barley, tons.....	2,626
Junco, cars.....	11

### Awakening Him.

The honeymoon was over and the honeymoon was here. "Don't worry, darling," said the romantic husband, "as he opened the piano, 'Remember, music is the food of love.'"

The pianist little wife shook her head.

"But if you really think music is the food of love," she responded, "perhaps you can step around and get the butcher to give you a beefsteak for a mere song."

"Then the long-haired genius woke up."

Representation Not Growing. The first British parliament, consisting of its present number of members (670), was elected in 1855.

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